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## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

in the design. A curious feature in it is the clear and bold manner in which the outline of the figures is sketched, as it were, in needlework. Every thread serves and shows as an outline. The drawing is undoubtedly very rude, but remarkably bold and spirited, and, however exaggerated, shows great truth and force of expression.

A frieze of the Bayeux Tapestry may be seen in the sculpture court of South Kensington Museum, and the original is shown to visitors at the cathedral at Bayeux. It is kept under glass, and is rolled out by a process like drawing up a bucket from a well.

This same Queen Matilda, the Norman chronicler Vitalis tells us, in recounting the incidents connected with the Royal visit to his Abbey of St. Evroul, brought with her an albi richly adorned with "orfrais," and presented it to the church. She also left by will a "chesable," worked at Winchester by the wife of one Alderet, and a cloak worked in gold, made in England. Winchester was at this time a Royal city, and abounded with able needlewomen.

In the Domesday Survey mention is made of a damsel, Alunid, who held two hides of land, which Earl Godric granted to her on condition of her teaching his daughter embroidery. There is also another mention in the Conqueror's Survey of a certain Leuide, who made embroidery for the use of the King and Queen.

At the end of the eleventh century, Christina, Abbess of Markgate, worked a pair of sandals, we are told, and three mitres of surpassing beauty, for Pope Adrian IV.

After the Conquest there were great alterations, we learn from ancient manuscripts, in the costumes of the people, and especially in dresses of ceremony. During the whole of the Anglo-Saxon period there had been very little variation in the dress, but after the Conquest changes crept in. The outer vest of the ladies, we see in the MS. of Prudentius (eleventh century) were of richly ornamented stuffs, presumably needlework.

Under the Normans the costume of the ladies underwent considerable modifications, and became far more splendid. The tunic, instead of being loose and flowing, was laced close, so as to show the form of the body. The fashion the Saxon ladies carried to such an excess that an early Anglo-Latin poet accuses them of covering themselves with gold and gems; of painting their eyes; of perforating their ears in order to hang them with jewels; of fasting and bleeding themselves in order to look pale; of tightening their waists and busts in order to mend their shapes; and of coloring their hair in order to give it a yellow tint.

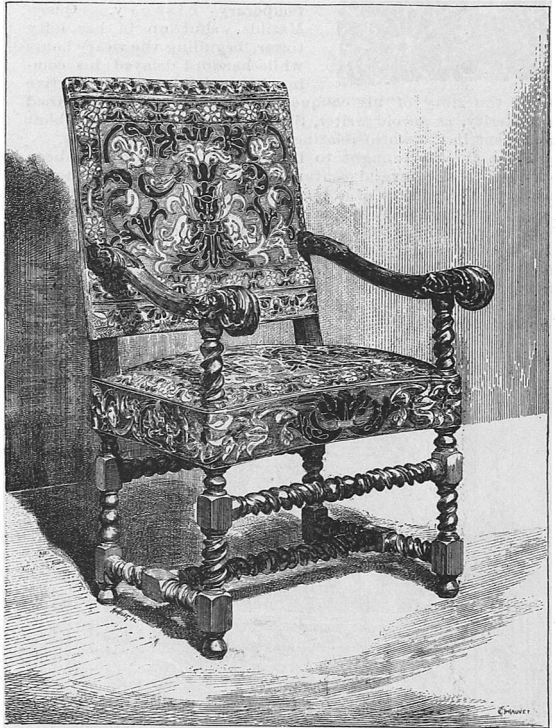
### NOVELTIES IN FANCY WORK.

NEVER was there so great a demand for pretty things of all kinds as at the present day, and, great as is the supply, it will probably never be equal to this demand. Every one who is connected with the minor arts, and indeed major arts, also, has the same complaint to make as regards originality and ingenuity in the production of novelties. Many women can copy a pretty screen, or any particular shape of work bag they may chance to see, but a fortune still awaits her who can keep the market supplied with genuine novelties which cannot be said to be copies or adaptions of something that is already before the public. Not all the notions described here are original, but they will probably be novel to many who may be able to enlarge and improve upon the suggestions made.

Photograph frames of plush look specially well if they are embroidered in gold bullion interspersed with jewels; while few ornaments are as appropriate for book covers. For these it is a good plan to but some cloth of gold into the semblance either of a metal clasp or corners, and the applique this to the plush or other material of which the cover is made. It should be edged with gold cord, and the gems sprinkled wherever they seem to tell best, each one being encircled with gold thread, to give the idea of a setting. Some display of taste is necessary in using gems, to avoid employing them too lavishly, and to choose a good mixture of color. A better effect is gained as a rule by two kinds of gems for one particular piece of work than by the use of three or four.

A STYLISH table cover is of gold colored brocade, enriched with embroidery, the colors being chosen with a view to secur-

ing the best effect under artificial light. The flowers are white, with drooping buds of pinkish tinge; the leaves rather a dark shade of green. The ends terminate with fringe, and the lining is gray-green corah. Gold satin, deeply tinged with green covers a large square cushion. The design represents a piece of the large square branch of a tree curved almost to a circle, conventionalized flowers and leaves spread out from the stem, and much of that odd shade of silk that resembles the interior of a ripe fig is used for the flowers. This shade shows wonderfully well on the gold ground.



ARM-CHAIR OF CARVED WOOD, UPHOLSTERED IN SILK WITH SATIN APPLIQUE, IN VARIOUS COLORS. FRENCH WORKMANSHIP.

### THE INTERRUPTED STAIRCASE.—Continued.

BY EDWARD LEE YOUNG.

FIG. 3 is not a difficult treatment, and gives the old cornice and frieze a chance to show themselves. Should these schemes be too expensive, we show in Fig. 4 a treatment for a country house, which could also be used in a city house with but few changes. This plan represents an alteration for a hall in the country or seaside house.

Many homely things can be used in a decorative sense, and there is no end to the possibilities of things thought to be of no use. The two hand lanterns, the old chest and the ship knee, for a bracket, all suggest other things well known to those who dwell in the country or at the seashore some time during the year. The old barn hinges are also decorative if used to hang things upon. The block and tackle, and many things from a yacht or boat will lend themselves readily to the decoration of a hall.

The dove-tail blocks let in flush to the matched woodwork are decorative and useful. They hold the boards together, and by their regularity lend a decorative effect to the otherwise plain woodwork. The wrought iron is intended to be very